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# Alliance for the Union of Romanians

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*Not to be confused with Alliance for Romanian Unity.*

The **Alliance for the Union of Romanians** (**Romanian**: *Alianța pentru Unirea Românilor*, AUR) is a **right-wing populist** and **nationalist political party** currently active in **Romania** and **Moldova**. It was founded on 19 September 2019. This was done with the intention of participating in the **2020 Romanian local and legislative** elections. Today, the party has two co-presidents, **George Simion** and **Claudiu Târziu**.

The party ran in the local elections, not obtaining many votes and only winning in three towns. However, in the legislative elections, the AUR won 9% of the votes in all of Romania and its *diaspora*, which resulted in a surprise that led the party to become the fourth largest one in the country at central political level.

AUR aims for the unification of all **Romanians** from Romania and Romanian-populated neighbouring zones, and for the support of the **Romanian diaspora** in other countries. The party seeks the **unification of Romania and Moldova**, supports NATO membership and aims for **energy independence** for Romania. It has been accused of supporting anti-vaccination ideas and being **Magyarophobic**.<sup>[19][20][21]</sup> Their party's self-described four main pillars are "**family, nation, Christian faith, and liberty**".

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## History

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The Alliance for the Union of Romanians was formally established on 19 September 2019.<sup>[22]</sup> Later, during the **Great Union Day of Romania** on 1 December 2019, its leader, **George Simion**, said the party's aims were to participate in the **2020 Romanian local and legislative** elections of the country.<sup>[23]</sup> Simion had up to this point been a campaigner for the **unification of Romania and the Republic of Moldova**.<sup>[5]</sup> The other party leader, **Claudiu Târziu**, was a member of **Coalition for the Family** which unsuccessfully campaigned to ban gay marriage through constitutional change in a **2018 referendum**.<sup>[24][25]</sup>

On 26 June 2020, AUR condemned the disinterest of the Romanian authorities regarding the **minority rights** of the **Romanians** in **Serbia** and Ukraine and declared that it would fully support them once it entered the **Romanian Parliament**.<sup>[26]</sup> Two days later, AUR also condemned the 80th anniversary of the **annexation of Bessarabia, Northern Bukovina and the Hertza region** by the **Soviet Union**, declaring that "it is our obligation to regain our state".<sup>[27]</sup>

By July 2020, AUR counted 22 branches in Europe and North America for the **Romanian diaspora**.<sup>[28]</sup> The first of these was established in **Wolverhampton**, in the United Kingdom.<sup>[29]</sup>

AUR was the only party in Romania that expressed support for **Donald Trump**.<sup>[30]</sup>

## 2020 Romanian local elections

[ edit source ]

During the 2020 Romanian local elections, AUR won the *mayoralty* in three towns: **Amara**, **Pufești**, and **Valea Lungă**.<sup>[31]</sup>

## 2020 Romanian legislative election

[ edit source ]

In the 2020 Romanian legislative election, AUR obtained a high percentage of the votes, being called as the "surprise" of Romania. The results also increased the popularity of the party on the **Internet**.<sup>[5][32][33]</sup> The party came first among **Romanians in Italy**, the largest group of the **Romanian diaspora**, and ran a close second among **Romanians in France** and **Romanians in Spain**. It also scored first in **Cyprus**.<sup>[34]</sup>

AUR's candidate for prime minister was **Călin Georgescu**, who worked for the **United Nations** for 17 years.<sup>[35]</sup>

According to a statement released by AUR, between 7 and 8 December 2020, 15,000 Romanians joined the party in just 24 hours. The party is supposedly going to have 46 members of parliament in the 2020–2024 Romanian legislature, according to the same statement.<sup>[36]</sup>

The party achieved good results in rural areas of **Moldavia** and **Dobruja**, areas traditionally dominated by the other big parties. Significant percentages are in the counties where the **Romanian Orthodox Church** has a strong influence and a large number of practicing believers. These are **Suceava** (14.72%), **Botoșani** (14.62%), **Neamț** (14.4%), **Constanța** (14.2%), and **Vrancea** (13.43%).<sup>[37]</sup>

The party speculated the new communication channels (social networks) in a similar way to the **Greater Romania Party** (PRM) of the late 1990s - early 2000s, which used the newspaper "România Mare" (*Greater Romania*) as a communication channel, reaching high electoral scores. Another example is the **People's Party – Dan Diaconescu** (PP-DD), which was propelled with the help of the **OTV** television channel.<sup>[37]</sup>

Recorder, a Romanian online publisher, argues that the election campaign of AUR has adapted to the rural environment, which lacks modern technology, relying more on messages desired by the masses than on a coherent ideology. In this way, they argue, in addition to a core of supporters who voted for radical messages, there is also the wider category of electorate strictly attracted by populist messages.<sup>[37]</sup>

## December 2020–present

[ edit source ]

On 22 January 2021, Simion announced that the party would officially adhere at European level to the "**European Conservatives and Reformists Party**" after going on visits in Poland and **Brussels**, Belgium.<sup>[38]</sup>

On February 2021, following the expulsion of **Diana Iovanovici Șoșoacă** from the AUR, several members of the party and of the **Social Democratic Party** (PSD) created the **Romanian Nationhood Party** (PNR), led by **Ninel Peia**, a former member of the PSD.<sup>[39]</sup>

Simion announced on 15 March 2021 that the AUR had intentions to start operating in the **Republic of Moldova** on the occasion of the **Day of the Union of Bessarabia with Romania** celebrated every 27 March.<sup>[40]</sup> The party was officially launched, as previously stated, on 27 March 2021, and the elected president of the party was **Vlad Bilețchi**, a renowned Moldovan unionist.<sup>[41]</sup> This new section of the AUR in Moldova later announced its intention of participating in the **Moldovan snap parliamentary elections** of 11 July 2021 to gain seats on the **Parliament of Moldova**.<sup>[42]</sup>

## Ideology

[ edit source ]

According to the party's website, AUR's ultimate goal is to achieve the unification of all Romanians "wherever they are located, in **Bucharest**, **Iasi**, **Timișoara**, **Cernăuți**, **Timoc**, Italy, or Spain". There are four self-described pillars for the party: **family, nation, Christian faith, and liberty**.<sup>[15][25][44]</sup> They have called themselves "the defenders of the Church".<sup>[30]</sup> The party is opposed to what it refers to as **gender ideology** and believes that a nation has no chance of surviving "unless it cultivates the original pattern of the classic family".<sup>[16]</sup>

The party's representatives became popular on **social media** as a result of their positioning against measures taken by the government during the **COVID-19 pandemic**. Leading members, such as Șoșoacă (later expelled), gained thousands of followers. AUR has been described as supporting "anti-medicine, anti-vaccination" rhetoric.<sup>[25]</sup> The party's manifesto opposes **secularism** and condemns **atheism**, while at the same time claiming that **Christians** are persecuted in Romania.<sup>[17]</sup> The party has been critical of the impact of the **local autonomy of Hungarians in Romania** on the rights of ethnic Romanians in the centre of the country (where the **Hungarians** are the majority).<sup>[16]</sup> leading to accusations of being **Magyarophobic**.<sup>[5]</sup> The latter accusation was rejected by the president of AUR.<sup>[45][46]</sup> and the party denounced the media, accusing it of spreading false information about their campaign.<sup>[47]</sup> Simion has cited **Law and Justice**, the ruling party in Poland, as one of his models.<sup>[48]</sup>

AUR wishes to position Romania as a leader in central and eastern Europe within the **European Union** and to integrate the Republic of Moldova into Romania.<sup>[49]</sup> The party is pro-NATO and views the integration of Moldova into Romania as strengthening NATO's eastern flank.<sup>[16]</sup>

AUR wishes to ensure Romania's self-sufficiency in energy, the prosecution of those deemed responsible for mismanaged post-Communist **privatisation** projects, and a fight against **illegal logging** by banning the export of non-processed wood.<sup>[48]</sup> Additionally, AUR wishes to reform and modernize the education system, with a focus on reducing the overhead of political administration in order to improve the quality and the availability of education in Romania.<sup>[50]</sup>

The party has a senate, which is equivalent to the National Executive Committee of other Romanian parties such as the PSD, the **National Liberal Party** (PNL) and the **Save Romania Union** (USR).<sup>[51]</sup>

## Electoral history (Romania)

[ edit source ]

## Legislative elections

[ edit source ]

Election	Chamber			Senate			Position	Aftermath
	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats		
<b>2020</b> <sup>1</sup>	535,828	9.08	<div><div></div><div>33 / 330</div></div>	541,935	9.17	<div><div></div><div>14 / 136</div></div>	<b>4th</b>	Opposition to PNL-USR PLUS-UDMR government (2020–present)

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> 1 senator and 4 deputies from **PNR** elected on AUR's list<sup>[52]</sup>

## Local elections

[ edit source ]

## National results

[ edit source ]

Election	County Councillors (CJ)			Mayors			Local Councillors (CL)			Popular vote	%	Position
	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats	Votes	%	Seats			
<b>2020</b>	71,022	0.99	<div><div></div><div>0 / 1,340</div></div>	26,596	0.33	<div><div></div><div>3 / 3,176</div></div>	35,797	0.45	<div><div></div><div>79 / 39,900</div></div>	71,022	0.99	<b>12th</b>

## Mayor of Bucharest

[ edit source ]

Election	Candidate	First round		
		Votes	Percentage	Position
<b>2020</b>	<b>Claudiu Târziu</b>	4,445	<b>0.67%</b>	<b>7th</b>

## Electoral history (Moldova)

[ edit source ]

## Legislative elections

[ edit source ]

Election	Parliament			Position	Aftermath
	Votes	%	Seats		
<b>2021</b>	TBD	TBD	<div><div></div><div>0 / 101</div></div>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>

## See also

[ edit source ]

- Politics of Romania**
- Politics of Moldova**
- Romanian Nationhood Party**
- Law and Justice (Poland)**

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## External links

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- Official website  (in Romanian)
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<div> <div><span></span></div> </div> <div><span></span></div>	
<span></span>	
Abbreviation	AUR (meaning "GOLD")
President	George Simion <div>Claudiu Târziu</div> (co-leaders)
General Secretary	Cristian David
President of the Senate of AUR	Sorin Lavric
Leader in the Senate	Claudiu Târziu
Leader in the Chamber of Deputies	George Simion
Founded	19 September 2019
Ideology	<b>Majority:</b> <div><div></div><div>Romanian nationalism<sup>[1][2][3]</sup></div><div>Right-wing populism<sup>[4][5][6][7]</sup></div><div>Conservatism<sup>[8][9]</sup></div><div>Romanian–Moldovan unionism<sup>[8][3]</sup></div><div>Romanian irredentism</div><div>Eco-nationalism<sup>[8]</sup></div><div>Soft Euroscepticism<sup>[8]</sup></div></div> <div><b>Factions:</b> <div><div></div><div>Ultrationalism<sup>[10]</sup></div><div>Neo-Legionarism<sup>[11][12][13][14]</sup></div></div></div>
Political position	Right-wing <sup>[15][16]</sup> to far-right <sup>[17][2][9][3][10]</sup>
Colours	<span><span> </span><span> </span><span> </span><span> </span></span> Gold
Slogan	<i>Dreptate pentru România</i> (Justice for Romania)
Senate	<div><div></div><div>13 / 136</div></div>
Chamber of Deputies	<div><div></div><div>31 / 330</div></div> <div><div></div><div>[a]</div></div>
European Parliament	<div><div></div><div>0 / 33</div></div>
Mayors	<div><div></div><div>3 / 3,176</div></div>
County Councillors	<div><div></div><div>0 / 1,340</div></div>
Local Council Councillors	<div><div></div><div>79 / 39,900</div></div>
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<div><div><div><span></span></div><div>a. <sup>^</sup> 3 deputies from PNR in AUR parliamentary group</div></div></div>	

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<div> <div><span></span></div> </div> <div><span></span></div>	
Abbreviation	AUR
President	Vlad Bilețchi <sup>[18]</sup>
Founded	27 March 2021
Colours	<span><span> </span><span> </span><span> </span><span> </span></span> Gold
Parliament	<div><div></div><div>0 / 101</div></div>
District Presidents	<div><div></div><div>0 / 32</div></div>
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AUR is young as a party, but it didn't come out of

nowhere. It brings together some people whose history is linked to the **late period of communism**. Its candidates are experts in **propaganda**, intellectuals with more or less open sympathy for **legionnaires** and legionary or pro-legionary intellectuals, businessmen and itinerant politicians who wander from one river party to another.

— Oliver Jens Schmitt<sup>[43]</sup>

This page was last edited on 2 June 2021, at 17:50.

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